Special Status for providing loan under APDRP

†*567. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of India have accorded special status to some of the backward States in Order to provide grant and loan under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP), if so, the names of the above States;

(b) the criterion for according the special status to the States;

(c) whether Government also propose to accord special status to Rajasthan being the border and drought affected State like other States; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir. Eleven States *viz.* Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttaranchal have been included under Special Category States for getting assistance under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP).

(b) National Development Council (NDC) accords special status to the States as per the following guidelines:

Strategic location on the border with neighbour countries;

Hilly terrains;

Inadequate economic and social infrastructure;

Predominantly large tribal population; and

Limited and weak resource base compared to development needs.

(c) There is no proposal in Ministry of Power to accord special status to Rajasthan.

(d) The funding pattern for release of funds to the Special Category states under APDRP has been adopted as per the criteria laid down by NDC.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.